



DOMESTIC COLLECTION DIVISION
Foreign Intelligence Information Report

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PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

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REPORT CLASS

COUNTRY Vietnam/USSR

DATE DISTR.

08 JUL 1982

SUBJECT Diversion of International Relief Supplies and Indications of Vietnamese Forced Laborers in the USSR
REFERENCES
(DOI: 1979-March 1982)

SOURCE

1. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) regularly diverts international relief foodstuffs and medicine from Kampuchea into the SRV. The end disposition of these goods is unknown. However, Vietnamese truck drivers who transport the goods from Kampuchea to Ho Chi Minh City warehouses and warehouse personnel pilfer parts of these shipments and sell them in the Ho Chi Minh City Marketplace. Dry meal donated to Kampuchea by Canada is one of the items known sold in the Ho Chi Minh City Marketplace. There were goods from other unidentified donor countries.

2. In 1979, the SRV dismantled all of the equipment of a fabric manufacturing plant in Pnom Penh, Kampuchea, and transported it to a warehouse in Ho Chi Minh City, SRV. This equipment is used as a spare parts bank for SRV fabric plants.

3. As of March 1982, SRV officials tacitly admitted that the new economic zones program is a failure. This is indicated by no official action being taken against people who desert the camps and return to Ho Chi Minh City. Complaints by returnees included a lack of food, fertilizer, seed, medical supplies and adequate shelter. Government officials no longer pressure people to go to a new economic zone and in fact very little mention is made about the zones either in the press, radio or television. Comment: In April 1982 news reports from the SRV carried statements by Phan Van Dong, Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, in which he recommended the nation continue its efforts to establish new economic zones.

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4. Indications are that SRV officials are using a ruse to provide laborers for the USSR. SRV officials are accepting applications for Vietnamese to emigrate to Australia. Once a number of applications are in hand, the individuals are told to report to a government office. They are then trucked to Long Binh for further transportation via air purportedly to Australia. However, a relative of one such emigree recently received a letter from the relative in which it was stated that the relative is working in Siberia and complained of the cold, lack of proper clothing and insufficient food. The relative claimed that the Vietnamese laborers were always hungry and cold.

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The letter from Siberia was transported to the SRV by a Soviet sailor who mailed the letter in Ho Chi Minh City. Based on local rumors, it is commonly believed that any Vietnamese attempting to escape from the SPV by boat and who are picked up at sea by Soviet vessels returning to the USSR are transported to the USSR where they are used as laborers.

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